



EXCISE

Department of State

TELEGR

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AN: D730123-0596

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G1
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-20

EB-11 SCEN-02 INT-08 NEA-10 DRC-01 OMB-01 /201 W

118296

R 290820Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5008
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2341

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CJ DATE 12/20/12
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒ IN PART
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B4; D1, A9

.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENDC MT LY IT

SLUG: [REDACTED] OIL SUPPLY PROBLEM

REF: A. VALLETTA 2276 B. VALLETTA 2267

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B4

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B4

B4

B4

4. [REDACTED] MINISTER HYER
MADE A STATEMENT ON MALTA TV THE SAME EVENING CALLING FOR

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VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT IN THE USE OF POWER. IN THIS FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL OIL CRISIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MALTA, HYZLER NOTED THAT FUEL AND OIL MUST BE IMPORTED TO OPERATE THE ELECTRIC POWER STATION, THE WATER DISTILLATION PLANT AND THE PLANT FOR PRODUCING TOWN GAS, WHICH IS USED FOR HOME COOKING AND OTHER PURPOSES. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE IMPORTATION OF DIESEL FOR FACTORIES AND VEHICLES. HYZLER SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "THE SUPPLY SITUATION HERE IS NOT PRECARIOUS SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE ASSURANCE THAT THE SUPPLY OF FUEL WOULD NOT BE LACKING." HE ADDED THAT GOM IS "THOROUGHLY CONSIDERING THE OIL SUPPLY SITUATION, AND...THE PUBLIC HAS NOT REASON TO ALARM ITSELF. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE PUBLIC'S COOPERATION IN ECONOMISING ON POWER SO THAT IT WILL LAST LONGER."

5. COMMENT. HYZLER ALSO MADE A CASE FOR INCREASING THE PRICE OF TOWN GAS BY SAYING THAT OIL AND GAS PRICES HAVE RISEN IN SOME CASES BY THREE TIMES THOSE OF LAST YEAR. DESPITE HYZLER'S REMARKS WE [REDACTED] REMAIN PERPLEXED, HOWEVER, BY GOM'S APPARENT REFUSAL ADDRESS ITSELF TO REAL POSSIBILITY LOCAL GASOLINE PUMPS WILL BE DRY BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH UNLESS RAPID PRICE ADJUSTMENT IS MADE. IN MEANTIME, RUMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE REGARDING THE RATIONING OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL BY [REDACTED] SHELL. [REDACTED] BELIEVES LACK OF PRESSURE BY SHELL ON PRICE QUESTION MAY BE RELATED TO TAKEOVER OF SHELL ITALIANA BY AGIP. GOM ALREADY HAS CONTRACT WITH AGIP UNDER WHICH ITALY SUPPLIES OIL TO ELECTRIC POWER STATION. GETZ.

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